GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6163
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
WATER CONSERVATION
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the World Water Day on 22 March 2003, the people's movement for water conservation has been intensified in the country;

(b) if so, whether under this campaign, people in every village and town would be encouraged to contribute voluntary labour for water conservation;

(c) if so, the States where this campaign had taken place;

(d) whether this Save Water Campaign launched in 2001 still continues in 2003 also; and

(e) if so, to what extent it has proved beneficial?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) In order to focus attention on various issues relating to water resources development & management and create awareness, observance of Water Resources Day every year was started in India in 1987. Subsequently, taking cue from India the United Nations (UN) has declared in 1993, March 22 every year as "World Water Day". Since then a Joint National Curtain Raiser function by UN and Ministry of Water Resources, is being organized every year on 22nd March at NewDelhi to mark the beginning of series of Water Resources Day and World Water Day programmes throughout the country. The theme for World Water Day for the current year is "Water for Future" and that for Water Resources Day is "Conservation of Water in Agriculture and Industrial Sectors". These themes become the basis for country wide discussions and people's participation in water related activities including Water Conservation in all States in the country.

(b)&(c) This campaign for mass awareness/action is open to all organizations/ institutions/citizens of the country in both rural and urban areas. The participation of the people is often in the form of observance/implementation of the water conservation measures in their daily life. In addition to the Government organizations, various non-governmental organizations, water users' associations also participate in various activities focusing on awareness about value of water including conservation etc.

(d)&(e) In year 2001, the theme for Water Resources Day was "Management of Floods and Droughts" and that for World Water Day was "Water and Health". Though these themes were selected for 2001, their implementation need not be restricted to that particular year only. They can still continue alongwith the new themes in subsequent years also. The year 2003 has been declared as Year of Freshwater in consonance with the UN Resolution declaring the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, in order to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. The programmes include awareness campaign through mass media, organizing workshops/seminars and action for initiating innovative methods by NGOs and other groups for water conservation, use etc.